

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE PETER T. KING, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable PETER T. KING, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 27, 1999.

Hon. DENNIS HASTER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House and I received a subpoena for documents and testimony issued by the superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

PETER T. KING.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 262 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 262

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), my good friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Committee on Rules met and granted a rule for the conference report for H.R. 2465, the Fiscal Year 2000 Military Construction Appropriations Act. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the United States military is clearly the best in the world. The young men and women in the Navy, Army, Air Force, and Marines are thoroughly dedicated and patriotic professionals, the best our Nation has to offer. So how do we reward them? We pay them with wages that are so

low that many military families are forced to eat with food stamps, and we lodge them in substandard, World War II housing. These, among other reasons, are why we are losing good men and women who stop serving their country because the hardships on their families are too great.

This is inexcusable, and Congress has been working hard to do something about it. This year we passed a 4.8 percent military pay raise, and with this bill, we will improve military housing.

H.R. 2465 provides \$747 million for new housing construction, and \$2.8 billion for the operation and improvement of existing housing. The bill also provides \$964 million for barracks and medical facilities for troops and their families. Finally, because of an increase in two-income and single-parent families, the bill provides \$21 million for child development centers.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 262 is a normal conference report rule for a good, non-controversial bill. I urge my colleagues to support this rule and to support the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for yielding me the time.

This rule waives all points of order for consideration against the conference report on H.R. 2465, which is the Military Construction Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000. The bill basically funds construction projects on military bases, including barracks, housing for military families, laboratories, hospitals, training facilities, and other buildings that support our Armed Forces. The bill also funds activities necessary to carry out the last two rounds of base closings and realignments.

This conference report represents the most basic kind of compromise between the House and the Senate versions of the bill. The House bill funded \$8.5 billion in military construction, the Senate amount was \$8.3 billion, and the conferees split the difference, arriving at a total of around \$8.4 billion.

I am pleased that the bill contains \$43.6 million for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, which is partially in my district and partially in the 7th Congressional District of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON). Since the days of Orville Wright, the Dayton area has been our Nation's center of military aviation science. Two of the Wright-Patterson projects funded in the bill are laboratories that will maintain the base's world-class research facilities.

Once again, I commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), who has done a great job;

and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), the ranking minority member, for his work on this bill. This is the first of the 13 appropriations bills to go through the House-Senate conference and reach this stage. It is a testament to their skill that they have moved so quickly to complete House action on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the rule and of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2465, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 262, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2465), making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 262, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Tuesday, July 7, 1999 at page H6475.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The conference report we present to the House today for military construction, family housing and base closure recommends a total appropriation of \$8.4 billion. This represents a \$76 million decrease from last year. It is also \$76 million below the House-passed level.

Overall, the agreement recommends \$3.6 billion for items related to family